

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 9, 13 and 20-30 are amended; and Claim 31 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. The claims are amended to correct minor informalities and cosmetic matters of form. No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, the Abstract was objected to because of a minor informality; Claims 9, 13 and 31 objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c); Claims 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; and Claims 1-8, 10-12 and 14-25 were indicated as allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response to the objection to the Abstract, a new Abstract is submitted herewith that conforms to U.S. practice. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 13 and 31 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being improper multiple-dependent claims for not referring to the claims from which they depend in the alternative. In response, Claims 9 and 13 are amended to correct this informality, and Claim 31 is canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 9 and 13 be withdrawn.

Claims 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for reciting the term "it." In response, Claims 20-25 are amended to omit the term "it" and are believed to be definite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 20-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, Claims 26-30 are amended to recite “[a] computer readable medium storing a ... program, which when executed by a computer causes the computer to perform...” Therefore, Claims 26-30 are directed to a product, which is a statutory category of invention, as noted in the Office Action.

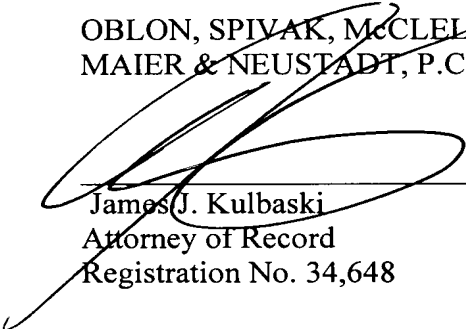
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. §101 be withdrawn.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application including Claims 1-30 is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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